

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07
AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00
COME-00 DLOS-06 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01
ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13
JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01
PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAL-01 /127 W
-----250820Z 090815 /14

R 241938Z MAR 77

FM AMCONSUL HAMILTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2338
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, BD

SUBJ: OPERATION OF FOREIGN FISHING COMPANIES IN BERMUDA

REF: STATE 56448

1. ACCORDING TO INDUSTRY SOURCES, FOLLOWING INSTANCES OF FOREIGN
TRAWLERS TRANSSHIPPING FISHERY PRODUCTS IN BERMUDA HAVE OCCURRED
THUS FAR THIS YEAR:

A) TWO ITALIAN TRAWLERS, MASCARETTI PRIMO AND SAGITTE, TRANS-
SHIPPED TOTAL OF 900 TONS OF BOSTON SQUID TO ITALIAN FLAG MOTHER
SHIP BOREA BETWEEN JAN 11 AND 20. A THIRD ITALIAN TRAWLER
ATTEMPTED TO DISCHARGE ITS CATCH TOTALING 800 TONS DURING THIS
PERIOD BUT THERE WERE INSUFFICIENT STEVEDORES AVAILABLE TO WORK
SHIP, WHICH LEFT STILL FULLY LOADED.

B) A JAPANESE TRAWLER, MAKAMI MARU, TRANSSHIPPED 550 TONS OF
SQUID AND FLATFISH TO JAPANESE MOTHER SHIP SETA MARU BETWEEN JAN
12 AND 16. A SECOND JAPANESE TRAWLER, NIHONKAI MARU, ATTEMPTED TO
DISCHARGE ITS CATCH TOTALING 300 TONS DURING SAME PERIOD BUT, AGAIN
DUE TO SHORTAGE OF AVAILABLE STEVEDORES, HAD TO SAIL FROM BERMUDA
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WITHOUT UNLOADING.

C) SOME 300 TONS CONSISTING OF SQUID AND AN OTHERWISE UN-
IDENTIFIED "LONG SLIM FISH" WERE TRANSSHIPPED BETWEEN ITALIAN-FLAG
TRAWLERS TONTINI PESCA TERZO AND TONTINI PESCA QUARTO BETWEEN MARCH
5 AND 9.

2. LOCAL SOURCES ARE ADAMANT THAT NONE OF THESE VESSELS HAD LOBSTERS IN THEIR TRANSSHIPPED CATCHES. ALL SIX OF THESE TRAWLERS WERE APPARENTLY FISHING OFF GEORGE'S BANKS. NEW YORK HAD BEEN LAST PORT OF CALL OF ALL FOUR OF THE ITALIAN TRAWLERS.

3. IN ADDITION TO THESE TRANSSHIPMENTS, 6 TO 8 OTHER FOREIGN-FLAG TRAWLERS OF 1000 TON CLASS HAVE CALLED HERE FOR CREW CHANGES, CREW REST AND BUNKERS SINCE NOVEMBER, 1976. ALSO, 20 TO 30 LONG-LINE TUNA BOATS HAVE CALLED HERE SINCE CHRISTMAS. BERMUDA'S GOVERNMENT FISHERIES OFFICER BELIEVES THAT THE LONG-LINERS (WHICH FLY KOREAN, JAPANESE, TAIWANESE AND PANAMANIAN FLAGS) HAD BEEN OPERATING WITHIN 50 MILES OF BERMUDA.

4. FOREIGN FISHING COMPANIES HAVE THUS FAR USED SERVICES OF LOCAL SHIPPING AGENTS, RATHER THAN ESTABLISHING THEIR OWN PERMANENT FLEET REPAIR, SUPPORT OR TRANSSHIPMENT FACILITIES IN BERMUDA.

5. FOR PAST FEW YEARS, THERE HAVE BEEN FEW TRANSSHIPMENTS OF FISHERY PRODUCTS IN BERMUDA DUE TO A LINGERING LABOR DISPUTE BETWEEN LOCAL STEVEDORES UNION AND SHIPPING AGENTS. THESE WORK-RULE PROBLEMS WERE RESOLVED IN JANUARY, 1977 AND LOCAL AGENTS ARE NOW COURTING THIS BUSINESS WHICH, CONCENTRATED AS IT IS IN NORMALLY SLACK WINTER MONTHS, WOULD PROVIDE WELCOME BOOST TO BERMUDA PORT ACTIVITY. LOCAL INDUSTRY SOURCES NOTE THAT TRAWLER FLEETS FISHING GRAND BANKS AND GEORGE'S BANKS PRESENTLY USE ST. PIERRE-MIQUELON AS PRIME TRANSSHIPMENT POINTS. IT IS BELIEVED HERE THAT DURING WINTER MONTHS BERMUDA OFFERS ATTRACTIVE ALTERNATIVE PORT, AS IT ENJOYS BETTER WEATHER CONDITIONS AND IS CLOSER TO FISHING GROUNDS. STEVEDORING COSTS IN BERMUDA ARE ADMITTEDLY HIGHER THAN IN ST. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PIERRE-MIQUELON, BUT BERMUDIANS HOPE THAT THE OTHER FACTORS WILL OUTWEIGH THIS. INDUSTRY SOURCES NOTE THAT LONG-LINE VESSELS NORMALLY OFFLOAD THEIR CATCHES AT ST. MARTIN AND THERE IS SMALL EXPECTATION THAT THIS SITUATION WILL CHANGE.

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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